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Letters of Wm. Fitzhugh.

(CONTINUED.)

April 22nd, 1686.

Dearest Brother:

With the Same Content and Satisfaction as wearied travellers take up their In, or weather Beaten Voyagers their desired Port After a long tedious and stormy voyage, so did I the most welcome joyfull and glad news of your health, welfare and prosperity, which I had from my Sister, Cousin William Fitzhugh & more particularly from Mr. Cooper. Your Self would not add to that happiness I believe doubting too great a repetition, might cause a Surfeit, or too great & Sudden a joy, a Suffocation of the Spirits.

If that hindered you from writing last year I have prepered by a composed frame, Not to fear the one or doubt the other, but am ready with all acridy and Cheerfulness to hear from your Self of your condition and Welfare. God Almighty hath been pleased to bless me with a very good wife and five pledges of our conjugall affection, three of which he has been pleased to call into the Arms of his Mercy, and lent me two, a hopefull boy and girle, and one other that will not suffer So close confinement is preparing to come into the world. And as he has been pleased to dispense these, his choicest of blessings he hath likewise added a plentiful Dispensation of his favours in giving me a competent subsistence to support myself and them comfortably and handsomely.

I hear that he has been bountifull in his favours to you, for which I am really glad, and heartily congratulate you therein.

By my Sister I understand our poor Mother and dear Sister have not only tasted but drank a large draught of the cup of affliction and waded through abundance of calamitys and trouble, which I truly condole, & do think it both our duty not only to commiserate, but as far as our ability extended not to suffer one to want, who gave us our being, nor suffer her to strugle to live who (under God) gave us life here. Charity directs to help those in want and distress, but Nature, Duty, the Laws of God

and man not only commands but enjoins to give the utmost help to a distressed Parent.

Therefore I have ordered Mr. Cooper to let you have what money you have occasion for, to the Assisting them, if it be the utmost farthing; & if it should not be enough should be sorry I had no more there.—I refer to your discretion how much to take and how to dispose thereof.

My Mother's age will not admit of such a voyage therefore I hope you will take care that she end her days comfortably in her native Soil. But for my Sister if she cannot otherwise better herself, I should be heartily glad of her good company, with an Assurance she shall never want as long as I have it to supply her. And if her inclination be to come I would desire and entreat you, that she come out handsomely & genteley & well cloathed, with a maid to wait on her & both their passage paid there, if she has it not of her own, out of my money in Mr. Cooper's hands, if so much can be spared from our Mother, and for the credit of it let her pay the money herself before. By Capt Smith who will not be long before he goes, & a third time this year by way of Liverpoole, opportunity will admit me to write you & shall then endeavor to put in anything that I have now omitted, & always assure you I am

Most Dear Brother

Your Wff.

To Mr. Henry Fitzhugh.

April 22nd, 1686.

Dear Sister:

Your two Kind and endearing letters I have received and heartily congratulate. The afflictions and miseries therein mentioned that our poor dear mother & yourself have gone through, I as truly condole, as the one gives me true contentment in your health and lives, so the other gives me as true a sence of sorrows for your calamitys & afflictions, which God in his good time I hope will alleviate if not take off. I thank your care and kindness in your large and particular account of all friends and relations there. I have taken care with my brother according to my

ability to assist both my mother and you, who I suppose will be so kind as to shew his letter, & in assurance of that will save me some trouble in writing, because to him I must refer you for a more particular relation. Dear Sister, I have advised him to persuade you, & now do entreat you myself to come in here, (except your fortune be above it) which your letter does not signify, where you will be a welcome and kind guest, both to me and my wife, & as long as I live you shall be assured not to want. The method I have taken for your coming in I would advise you by all means to follow, which will give us both credit & reputation, without which its uncomfortable living, & I am assured my brother will both assist and direct you in it. I hope the money I have ordered him to dispense will fully pay you and a maid to wait on you, your passage, & have something overplus genteelly to set forth your self. I am now tired w^h writing & business, & do intend to write very speedily again, therefore shall add no further now; than only to assure I am

Dear Sister your &c.

To Mrs. Dorothy Fitzhugh.

April 22nd, 1686.

Dear Mother:

My Sister gives me a sad account of your continued misfortunes & afflictions for which I heartily grieve, & am really sorry that my distance will not admit me the happiness of your company, to comfort you in your afflictions, & that my ability is not as great as my desires to aid and assist you, you must accept my letter for my company, & I have taken care with my brother, to draw the utmost penny that I have in England, to contribute to your & my Sister's relief, those necessarys that was, designed for, I had rather be without than your necessity's should continue, as far as my ability permit. I thank God I live very comfortably with a good wife & two children now living, five I had in all but three are dead & my wife is now with child.

Praised be God I neither live in poverty nor pomp, but in a very good indifferency & to a full content. My brother & Sister will more fully give you a particular relation of me &

my concerns; to whom I refer. God Almighty I beseech to take off those afflictions he has been pleased to chasten you with, or endue you w^h a christian patience to bear them.

I have at present only to add to crave your, blessing & continuall prayers for Dear Mother

Your dutifull &c.

To Mrs. Mary Fitzhugh.

April 22nd, 1686.

Most Kind Cousin

I joyfully receiv'd your kind courteous & particular letter, & therein receive the full satisfaction and contentment to hear of the healths & welfare of all friends & relations therein enumerated, & particularly your own & wife, & children, which I pray God continue I have also to return you my hearty thanks for you courteous trouble in communicating my letter, to the several relations in your's mentioned, I cant say I'll serve you in the like kind, but can assure you in anything that lyes in my power, shall think myself happy in receiving your commands, & now intend to give due obedience to your desires in my particular to let you know, that I have been twelve years happy in a good wife & still continue so, & God Almighty has been pleased to bless me with five pledges of conjugal affection, three boys & two girles, the eldest girle & two youngest boy's, I hope are Saints in heaven, my eldest son named Will^m is now living & his sister, & I hope e'er long I may have another, to add to the number.

I have this year particularly written to my Mother, Brother, & Sister, therefore shall not give you the trouble in my behalf of saluting them, but must beg the favour to give my service & due respects to all friends & relations else, and more particularly to your father & mother & my aunt.

My wife gives her due respects to your self, & your wife, & I must entreat you to accept of the same from

S^r Your Wff.

To Mr. William Fitzhugh Stationer &c.

April 22nd, 1686.

Doctr. Ralph Smith

In order to the Exchange you promised to make for me & I desire you to proceed therein, to say to Exchange an Estate of Inheritance in land there of two or three hundred pound a year, or in houses in any town of three or four hundred pound a year, I shall be something particular in the relation of my concerns here that is to go in return thereof. As first the Plantation where I now live contains a thousand acres, at least 700 acres of it being rich thicket, the remainder good hearty plantable land, without any waste either by marshes or great swamps the commodiousness, conveniency & pleasantness yourself well knows, upon it there is three quarters well furnished with all necessary houses; grounds and fencing, together with a choice crew of negro's at each plantation, most of them this country born, the remainder as likely as most in Virginia, there being twenty nine in all, with stocks of cattle & hogs at each quarter, upon the same land, is my own Dwelling house furnished with all accommodations for a comfortable & gentile living, as a very good dwelling house with rooms in it, four of the best of them hung & nine of them plentifully furnished with all things necessary & convenient, & all houses for use furnished with brick chimneys, four good Cellars, a Dairy, Dovecot, Stable, Barn, Henhouse, Kitchen & all other conveniencys & all in a manner new, a large Orchard, of about 2500 Aple trees most grafted, well fenced with a Locust fence, which is as durable as most brick walls, a Garden, a hundred foot square, well pailed in, a Yeard wherein is most of the fore-said necessary houses, pallizado'd in with locust Punchens, which is as good as if it were walled in & more lasting than any of our bricks, together with a good Stock of Cattle, hogs, horses, mares, sheep, &c., & necessary servants belonging to it, for the supply and support thereof. About a mile & half distance a good water Grist miln, whose tole I find sufficient to find my own family with wheat & Indian corn for our necessitys & occasions up the River in this county three tracts of land more, one of them contains 21996 acres, another 500 acres, & one other 1000 acres, all good convenient & commodius Seats, & wth in few years will yield a considerable annual Income. A stock of Tob^o with the

crops and good debts lying out of about 250000^{lb} besides sufficient of almost all sorts of goods, to supply the familys & the Quarter's occasion for two if not three years. Thus I have given you some particulars, which I thus deduce the yearly crops of Corn & Tob^o together with the surplusage of meat more than will serve the family's use, will amount annually to 60000^{lb} Tob^o W^{ch} at 10 shilings p C^o 300 £ p annum, & the negroes increase being all young & a considerable parcel of breeders will keep that stock good for ever. The stock of Tob^o managed with an inland trade will yearly yield 60000^{lb} Tob^o without hazard or risque, which will be both clear without charge of house keeping or disbursements for servants clothing. The Orchard in a very few years will yield a large supply to plentiful house keeping or if better husbanded yield at least 10000^{lb} Tob^o annual income. What I have not particularly mentioned your own knowledge in my affairs is able to supply, if any are so desirous to deal for the estate without the stock of Tob^o I shall be ready & willing, but I will make no fractions of that, either all or none at all shall go. I have so fully discours'd you in the affair that I shall add no farther instructions but leave it to your prudent and careful management & would advise that if any Overtures of such a nature should happen, immediately give an account thereof to Mr. Nicholas Hayward, Notary publick, near the Exchange London, both of the person treating, & the places Situation, Quantity & quality of the Estate, who will take speedy & effectual care to give me a full & ready account thereof, which I hope you will p all the opportunitys do to.

S^r Your Wff.

To Doctr. Ralph Smith in Bristol.

April 22nd, 1686.

Most Worthy Sir,

I must confess I want abilitys to polish & adorn my expressions with that Elegance & sweetness of stile your two letters I this year receiv'd are full freighted with, yet I'll endeavour to supply that defect with a true sincerity & ardent zeal to assure you of my most hearty affection & real propensity which your generous worth obliges & obliging favours binds me to, & shall

be always ready to court all occasion to demonstrate the same. I never met a Disapointment with greater chearfullness, than when I was informed of your Purchase of the seat of land contiguous, for my intention of purchase was to have such neighbours on it as might live quietly & honestly, the contrary of which are in all places ill, but here really pernicious. Your Purchase not only takes away those fears, but as to my contentment in the assurance of so generous & friendly a neighbourhood, either by a Trustee for your self, or by some near & dear relation to yourself.

What service I can do you either in the settlement or farther confirmation thereof, if your kindness will please to communicate my ready obedience shall be fully shewn in a speedy [& to my skill] full compliance. But if you intend for sale (which I hope not) if you will be pleased to give me the Refusal, I will give you the full heighth of the market, because the Interposition of an unknown Neighbour so near may be vastly prejudicial. S^r, your generous & kind offer of more vegetables in any condition desired either in seeds, trees slips or plants, agrees so naturally with my constitution & the melancholy condition of this country that I must be of all men the most ungratefull if I should not meet with so great a favour from so good a friend, with all the chearfulness a tongue is able to express, or heart to think, & should be guilty of a high Ingratitude (which sin next to the sin of Witchcraft I utterly abominate) if I should particularly impose farther troubles, till I have retributed your past favours in this kind, by a due acknowledgement & a thorough account of the Essays therein made which I hope are now upon germination, and by the next I hope to give you some satisfactory account thereof. Your uncle Porteous* remote habitation & my retirement from publick concerns (and so consequently from James-town) admits me not at present that desired opportunity of retaliating your kind favours in the nature & quality desired,

* "Your Uncle Porteus" was probably Edward Porteus who lived on York river in the upper end of Gloucester county, and who, in 1693, was recommended by the Governor as a person of suitable standing and estate to be appointed to the Council, and who, it is believed, was grandfather of Bishop Porteus; or it was Alexander Porteus, who had a grant of 600 acres at Morottico Creek in Lancaster (part now Richmond) in 1656, and who was living in Lancaster in 1658.

yet with my near Neighbour & very good friend your brother Sam; I can never forget your desires (being so correspondent with my own inclinations) in commemoration of your good healths there & by the first opportunity shall fully answer your acceptations & my wishes. S^r, The enclosed is a copy of Directions & Instructions to Doct^r Ralph Smith an ingenuous gentleman but an inveterate Whig, an one that has good Credit & Interest in Bristol with that party where he lives, & gives me some assurance (By the beating of his own pulse) which he says keeps even stroke with the rest of that discontented side (of its taking its desired effect) the humour of that party being to remove & Change with difficultys & hazards, rather than live contentedly & submissively, (Though plentifully) under the established Government & had rather rest & Cross the expressed letter of the Scripture, than suffer that to rest their Inclinations or Cross their anabaptistical humors. The latter part gives you the reason that I sent you copy thereof, wherein as in a mirror, you may see my desires are now to breathe my native air & to enjoy the fruition of my native of Soil, if as it is there proposed it could be done with reputation & credit, as also my true Station and Standing here, which without a firm Settlement there I am resolved not to leave. If Mr. Smith writes you any thing relating thereto, I beg your favour in the examination thereof, or if in the course of your business, you could meet with such a discontented party you will be pleased in my behalf to propose the Overture. S^r, The enclosed is a letter to my brother which I beg the favour of yourself to deliver, Mr. Jno. Cooper I presume will bring you to his Company, I have sent it purposely open, that you both see and know the contents. And I hope he will (pursuant thereunto) heartily acknowledge and truly thank you for all your favours and kindnesses expressed and manifested to me, and for this last trouble in particular which I'll assure you shall always be acknowledged by

S^r, Your Wff.

To Mr. Nich^s Hayward, Notary, &c.

April 22nd, 1686.

Dearest Brother:

I have under cover of Mr. Nicholas Hayward my highly honoured & most esteemed friend seconded in the same ship my

first under cover of Mr. John Cooper only to bring you into his acquaintance, & to beg your assistance to give him my due acknowledgements & thanks for all his past kindness & continued favours which without the height of Ingratitude I cannot omit the acknowledgement. I have been so large & so particular in my first I have now little to add, only to tell you that necessity of business occasioned me to give a more near & perfect account of my Station here, than either prudence or modesty would admit me to do in your's, which upon your request I assure myself he will communicate to you & if you can do me any kindness therein I am certain you will contribute your helping hand, for effecting thereof for

Your Wff.

To Mr. Henry Fitzhugh, in London.

April y 26th, 1686

Mr. Thos. Clayton*

The Trade & Dealing that I have had with Mr. Greenhahgh this year, & by that means the Converse, Society & Acquaintance with Mr. Jno Marshal is fully able & I suppose will readily inform you & whose persuasions and advice give me the opportunity & you the trouble of this present Overture for a quick, constant & certain & I believe advantageous trade, which in my apprehension you have not hitherto hit on. The offers I have

* Thomas Clayton was probably of the family of Clayton of Fullwood, of whom there is the following short pedigree in "Gregsons Fragments:"

Robt Clayton of Fulwood, near—Eleanor, dau. of John Atherton Preston, Co Lancr. obt. Sep. 1664, by his wife Eleanor, dau. of Sir Thomas Ireland, Knt.

Will : Clayton Esq=	Elizabeth, dau. of
of Fulwood. Mayor of Liverpool, M. P. from 1698 to 1702, and 1713 & 1714; ob. 1715; buried at St Nicholas. [In 1703 he petitioned the government as a Merchant, trading to Md. and Virginia.]	Geo. Leigh, of Oughterington, d. 1745.

Four Daughters.

to make are but of two sorts. The first for a quick & speedy Dutch Trade. The second for a quick & sudden Trade & Dispatch here, & a ready & full compliance to your whole ship & cargoe &c. As to the first which is the Dutch Trade, to have a ship of 200 Hhds burden here the beginning of October, & to have her whole Loading ready by the 15th & on board by the 25th of the same month, that she might be dispatched out hence by the 27th at farthest, & by that means have first choice of the crops here, & the first & best of the Dutch market there. In which Design I myself would go a quarter, or rather than fail a third part, & engage to have my whole loading ready by the 10th of October at farthest, but doubt your own remoteness & the Indexterity of most of your Factors in the course of trading you are now in, will not admit so ready a compliance, that concern requires to be profitably carried on, shall be no more particular therein, but refer you to Mr. Marshal for a more ample account thereof. As to the second for a quick and sudden dispatch &c. I have this to offer that at 16. 8d p. cent I will engage to load a ship of 200 hhd. After this manner that is, let her arrive any time by the 10th November, immediately upon her arrival after the 10th November aforesaid, I will give her notes for one third of her Loading, as soon as ever she has dispatched those notes & got the Tob^o on board, I will then give her Notes for one third more of her Loading, & when she has dispatch'd them, I will then give her Notes for the remaining part of her full Loading, which begining the 10th Nov^r may be easily perfected & performed by the 28th of the same month, & she ready to sail by the last of the same month or begining of December at farthest, Provided the master be a Diligent, Industrious man such a one as I can assure you Mr. Marshal is. And whatever stay she makes for want of my Notes aforesaid I will be bound to pay damage money p. day to the full of the ships charge. The conveniency of Tob^o & readiness of getting it on board, Mr. Marshal can pretty well inform you & I must also tell you, that near one half thereof must come off my own Plantation, near a third more at one particular Rowling house or landing, and the whole remainder not above twenty miles distance which in this country is a very inconsiderable matter. The 200 hhd. at 460 p hhd. which will certainly be the smallest weights of forward tob^o will

amount to 92000 lb. Tob° which at 16. 8d. p cent comes to £776. 13. 4 half of which money I would deposited in such hands as I shall appoint and the other half in goods salable for this country cargoe, the money there deposited, I covet not the disposal of, nor the goods hither sent the possession of, till I have first answered my contract p the Delivery of Notes for good Tob°. Thus I have shortly touched at the Trade proposed, & if you doubt in anything I refer you to Mr. Marshal with whom, with whom I have more amply discoursed thereof, & who is fully able to inform you of my capacity & ability for performance, & the conveniency that will be in it. By this way of Trade your ship has no stay your men a full employment your goods a certain Sale, your Ship a certain Loading, yourselves but one half of the risque by reason one half the money is left in Engl^d. No fear of bad or slow Debts, no doubtfull, careless or giddy Factors to overthrow the voyage & reckoning the charge of the Ships stay upon the course of Trade you are now in & the bad debts left the same quantity of Tob° must needs stand you in a great deal more money, with all the hazards & disadvantages aforesaid. What is before said for the forward Ships arrival & dispatch in November, I have the same to propose in the same circumstances, & under the same conditions for the said ships or some other of the same burden arriving here, by the 10th of february, which may likewise be as suddenly dispatched, but the weights of the hh^{ds} round cannot be expected so great as the first ships, yet may, & I believe will hold out 420 p hh^{ds} which will amount to 84,000 lb Tob° at 16 8^d p cent is 700£ which money I would have likewise ordered as the former, half there deposited & half in sortable goods as before, which latter Ship will be dispatch'd before most if not all your Ships that come hither under the course of Trade you are now in. By this means one ship will readily & easily perform two voyages in one year, the Seamen Kept in full employment & consequently deserve their wages, the Master busily & constantly employ'd & the Ship according to the intent of her building in a continual Run, and as above all things in certainty and what loytering time is made (provided the master be diligent and dextrous) at my charge which I believe well weighed and considered, will deliver Tob° in Engl^d at cheaper rates than it is now purchased by those that make the cheapest Purchases. If

this method and proposal be acceptable then care must be taken to give me for the first year timely and speedy notice either p the last Sept^r or begining of October at farthest of the acceptance and continuance for at least three years, provided we live so long, but mortality must separate, because the contract is personal. Now the Directions that I have to propose for your methods to take therein to give Mr. Nich^s Hayward Notary publick near the Exchange London, notice thereof who will give me a speedy and sudden account of it, also to pay the money for the first and seconded ship into his hands, or else to take such care that shall be to his satisfacion for the payment thereof, together with such caution for the same as he shall approve after notice of the same from him, I shall be ready then to make my full compliance in Tob^o as aforesaid. And for the goods sort them, as if you were to send a cargo to purchase your Loading here (with this caution that it well bought and with ready money) which is this way advantageous that in case of my mortality, it may suitably fit you towards your Loading, according to your present course of Trading and will most properly suit me for my Second Ships Loading and such suitable goods in your second Ship will suitably prepare me for my Summer's market, and your next forward Ships punctual and ready compliance. To Mr. Nicholas Hayward, I refer the security and receiving the money payable in England as aforesaid, and therefore expect the application and compliance first to be made to him, who will by the first opportunity and timely enough give me notice thereof to make preperation accordingly for that reason do expect to receive my first letters from you Subcover of his, & upon reception of them shall take care to be provided pursuant thereunto. And whereas I have set the sum of money according to the weights of Tob^o I guess at, if the weights of the hhth fall short bulking may make up the complement, or if it overdoes your matters orders must be large enough to make an allowance. Also as to the set times of 10th November & 10th february for the giving the first Notes I have set them down because of certainty and as boundaries to the proceeding's, but if the Ship arrives before either of the times immediately upon her arrival she may Keep doing & if I have sufficient Tob^o ready by me she may get her Despatch, but if for want of Seasons or Receipts, I should not have

Tob^e to make compliance, I may then have as much time given me afterwards, before I pay damage money as I gave them employment by my notes, before the prefixed time aforesaid. Also if the ship by contrary winds or bad weather stay longer before her Arrival than the times prefixed, I do not expect that exactness, of three times for the Delivery of Notes, but they may have Notes for the whole or the half according to the time of their stay immediately upon her Arrival. Now my intentions being to make a full compliance of 400 hh^{ds} at the time & under the penalty's in the manner & method beforementioned for the money & goods there express'd, if I have been defective in anything that may relate to your Interest provided the main Intention be kept good upon notice thereof, I shall be ready to supply that defect, or if I have been deficient in any particular relating to my own Interest, the main being Kept whole, I expect the same measure, for every particular perhaps may not occur to my memory, in a bargain of this weight & nature, but in the general if you approve I will make a full & sure compliance which is the needfull at present from

Worthy Gent. Your Wff.

To Mr. Thos. Clayton & Doctr. Silvester Richmond
Merchts. in Liverpool.

April 29th, 1689.

Doct^r Ralph Smith

At your request I have given you copy of this my Proposal of Trade to Mr. Clayton & Mr. Richmond of Liverpool if you find merchants or other of your acquaintance in Bristol that are desirous to lay hold thereof, for the time therein mentioned, for three years at least, upon the terms & under the conditions & circumstances therein specified you must advise and direct them to give speedy & sudden notice thereof to Mr. Nicholas Hayward Notary publick near the Exchange London, as also that they take such satisfactory care to make according to the methods proposed, full compliance & satisfaction to him & if before their offer Clayton & Richmond have not proceeded therein, they then may have the opportunity of the offer, & con-

veniency of first compliance & assuredly a full return according to the methods & pursuant to the Agreement therein mentioned. Thus Sir att your request I have made the more general, but if it be any way serviceable, the end is answered of

Sir your Wff.

To Doct^r Ralph Smith, in Bristol.

Mayday 1686.

Capt. Robt. Norman *

I have at your request given you copy of this my Proposal of Trade to Mr. Clayton & Richmond of Liverpool, & if you think that you, together with your friends & Employers may approve & accept thereof I will readily condesend, & agree thereto, provided you give speedy & timely notice to Mr. Hayward as therein is directed, & take care in the performance of the proposal & agreements therein mentioned. And whereas I direct them to Mr. Marshal for an account of me, my concerns and abilitys for performance of my past I must your friends and employers to your own knowledge for an account of my standing and capacity, to undertake and go through with that affair. And do also further direct and advise that if you and your friends accept thereof, that if it be possible, you be in this first time by the beginning of October, though it be a small matter more chargeable, for the reasons I more fully rendered you when were together &c, I haveing so fully discours'd you in this affair need add no farther than to assure you all things here on my part shall be punctually and fully performed by

Your Wff.

To Capt. Rob't. Norman &c.

May 6th, 1686.

Dearest Brother

The above is Duplicate of my former p way of Bristol dated April 22d. What I have more to add now is to tell you, that

* Captain Robert Norman, spoken of in another place as of Belfast, Ireland. Perhaps he was the Robert Norman of Middlesex county, Virginia, whose will (dated February 1709-'10, proved March 1709-'10) bequeaths his property to his wife, son, Thomas Norman and brother Moses Norman.

there will be £20 in Mr. Cooper's hands left to your discretion to supply Mother's present wants, and to help fit out for my Sister for her voyage hither, or if she will not come to assist her in her necessities there, and to tell you that's all the money I have in England or can at present command there, please to tell them it is not so much as my desires, are to contribute to their relief, but the whole of what I can at present spare. Also I would desire you to shew them this letter, which will give satisfaction in what I have omitted writing them and save me the trouble of being more particular as in theirs. I have nothing that I have further to add, save the full assurance that I am

Your Wff.

To Mr. Henry Fitzhugh, &c.

May 6th 1686

Dear Sister

The above is a copy of my former sent by way of Bristol 22d of April, I have been so large with my brother, and entreated him to shew you my letter, which I am confident he will, that I need not be more particular, than only to tell you that I have ordered him about £20 to be disposed to my mother's and your use, which is all the money I have in England and would desire you that if you intend in hither, as I hope and wish you will that you would prepare to come away in the very first ships that comes into this River, by which means you may promise to yourself a prosperous and quick passage, and make me the sooner happy in the enjoyment of your good company. Mr. Nicholas Hayward near the Exchange London, and Mr. Jno. Cooper will direct you to a good ship and a civil mater, if you apply yourself to them, they being my very good friends.

And Mr. Hayward will also take effectual care to send your letter to me, if you deliver them to him, with all speed and expedition and sooner and safer than you can possibly yourself, therefore would have you deliver what letters you send me to him, Pray convey the inclosed away to my Mother with all expedition, and present my duty to her, and true love and respects to all friends else there so helping both to hear from you and see you too, by the first Ships next year.

I have now no more to tell you, but to give you this Assurance
you shall always find me

Dear Sister Your Wff.

To Mrs. Dorothy Fitzhugh

May 6th, 1686.

Mr. Nicholas Hayward

Sr. The above is Duplicate of my former p way of Bristol, dated April 22nd, 1686. This comes p Capt. Smith, but do not think it needfull to send Duplicate of the Inclosed Instructions in that to Doctr. Smith about the Exchange therein mentioned, because if that should miscarry Doctr. Smith who is in the same bottom cannot be safe & consequently incapaciated to carry it on, but if it should come safe to your hands, I am well assured of your kindness. The inclosed being copy of a letter to Mr. Clayton & Doctr. Richmond of Liverpool, about trade speaks its own business and your friendship and kindness largely expressed and as largely manifested, emboldens me to add this trouble to your former, entreating you to secure the money therein mentioned for me if they accept the proposal and to give me timely and speedy notice thereof by the first Ships, and if Ships should not come time into our River, by directing letters for me to be left at Mr. Jno. Buckner's* clerk of Gloucester county in York River, or to Coll^r William Diggs in St. Mary's in Maryland, who will give them a quick conveyance to my hand and are so conveniently seated that letters coming into any part of Virginia or Maryland will suddenly fall into their hands, or if you know any merchants in London, will accept of the terms, I will assuredly

* Mr. John Buckner patented 1,000 acres of land in Gloucester in 1669, and was himself one of the headrights. He appears from various county records to have been a merchant in extensive business, and appears frequently as attorney (in fact) for English merchants. He brought the first printing press and printer to the Colony, and, in 1682, having printed the laws of the preceding Assembly, he was ordered by the Governor and Council to give (together with his printer) bond not to print anything more until the royal wishes on the subject had been consulted. The printer was named Roughead, and appears to have lived afterwards in Maryland.

make compliance, or if you or they doubt of my abilitys for performance, Cap^t Thos. Smith or his mate Burnham are able to give satisfaction therein. S^r I have already shewed it to two Traders here, Mr. Ralph Smith of Bristol and Cap^t Robert Norman of Belfast in Ireland, who desired copys thereof, and am verily perswaded their owners and employers will comply therewith, which copys I gave them and particular letters (the copys whereof I have here enclosed sent you) to give a relation to them although the original Design was to Clayton and Richmond. S^r if either Clayton or Richmond or any of the above mentioned agree to it, or any merchant in London, will accept thereof, I wholly refer myself to you for the securing the money, out of which I desire you to reimburse yourself, for your care, charge and trouble or if the Trade does not take, I shall take effectual care to reimburse your charge and make you full satisfaction for your trouble, I must likewise thankfully acknowledge it as a farther Addition to your accumulated favours done to

S^r Your Wff.

To Mr. Nich^s Hayward.

May 6th, 1686.

Mr. Jno Cooper

S^r. The above is a copy of my former p via Bristol bearing date 22nd April last and do intend this p Capt. Smith, if he be not gone before I get it down to him. In my former I sent you bills of exchange and in this send you the second bills, and do think they are so good they will be punctually paid, I have likewise advised in my former letter, to deliver to my brother what money of mine he called for without limitation, I likewise in my former acquainted you that I thought I would consign you some Tob^o, but Smith going away so suddenly hinders that Design though now I have the Tob^o lying ready by me, and doubt its too late to get freight in any other Londoner for the same, also more bills I have to send but cannot get them time enough to send by this conveniency, but by next which will be by way of Liverpool, you may expect another letter, with other bills of Exchange inclosed therein. It not being long before they will sail, I have now no farther to add than to assure you I am

S^r Your Wff.

To Mr. Jno. Cooper Merch^t in London.

May 20th, 1686.

Mr. Nicholas Hayward

I have been so often troublesome to you this year, and perhaps impertinently too, about my proposed Exchange, and my offers of Trade, of both of which I hope you have already, and will by this receive Duplicates. This comes to return you my cordial thanks for your Almanack, and which is of greater moment a continued assurance of your constant friendship and kindness, intimated in your brother Sam's letter, which I as joyfully please myself with, as the most miserly Usurer in the enjoyment of his full bags, and with the same propensity shall endeavour the continuance, as he does his adored golden Mammon. Also in the said letter, you seem to have an inclination of disposing your new purchase in my Neighbourhood, to some french Hugonots. If your Intentions therein be as well led by charity to help the distressed, as p advantage to make profit of your Purchase, I believe it may lay in my power to answer both or either of them for if you are designed for sale, if you please to give me the offer, and to set your lowest price, I will accept, and make you punctual and good payment either in money or Tob°. And for the french Protestants, I have convenient and good Land enough seat 150 or 200 familys upon one Dividend w^{ch} contains 21996 Acres, which I will either sell them in fee at £7. sterling for every hundred acres, or else lease it to them for three lives, paying 20 shillings p annum for every hundred acres and they may have the liberty of renewing one two or three lives at any time paying for each life to be renewed one years Rent, without demanding any fine or other consideration for their first purchase and will engage to find them with and meat for the first year, meat at 2-6 p hundred and corn at 2-6 p bushel for as many soever as comes in if it be three or four hundred people and all other necessarys for their money at the Country Market price. The Land I offer to Sell or lease is suituate in this country lyes within a mile and half of Potomack River, and of two bold navigable creek's is principal good Land, and is more proper for frenchmen, because more naturally inclined to vines than yours or any about our Neighborhood and will engage to naturalize every soul of them at £3 p head, without any more or other

matter of charge or trouble to them, whereby the heirs will be capacitated to inherit the father's purchase. S^r I am more affraid of falling upon Scylla to avoid Charybdis, that is, of one sea, if I should endeavour to be perspicuous, I should be too impertinent and troublesome, and if I should be very short I doubt obscurity, therefore I'll rather venture a breach of good manners and a tresspass upon your patience (which your repeated letter manifests to be soon tired) by repetitions rather than hazard an obscurity in my propositions and intentions, for whereas I have said if so many familys comes, my meaning is, let few or many familys come, not exceeding that number, I am provided, and will certainly seat them and provide for them upon the conditions expressed. And if I lease for three lives, my meaning is they shall pay no fine or Purchase, but only their annual Rent, also one man may have 2. 3. 4 or 500 acres or as many hundred as he pleases, paying for each hundred 20 sh. annually and renewing 1. 2 or 3 lives at any time for the full of the yearly rent. S^r If these offers be acceptable or pleasing to the frenchmen or any other of your friends it will be double advantageous to me, first by meeting an opportunity to serve you through your friends, and secondly, by profitably either selling or tenanting my Land, which till so done, is rather a Charge than profit. S^r What I have farther to add about the proposal of Trade is, that I do not desire to have the money, till they have an assurance of the receipts of their Tob^o provided you shall have such security, as you shall like for the payment then also to acquaint you that if more than one should accept of the offer, I am ready and in a capacity, to comply with two Ships forward and latter, that is for eight hundred hh^d in the whole, not doubting but to have pretty near that quantity out of my own stock, and to advise to accept of the first if you find them fully responsible. S^r The reason of the repetition of this offer of Exchange contrary to my intentions as intimated in my is occasioned, because of our continual news hither is of higher and greater dissatisfaction, amongst that discontentd Whiggish Party, and being something acquainted with the disposition of the men, by the knowledge of two I have met with, that parted with such estates as in mine mentioned, merely upon Discontents, and were bound for Pennsylvania, who heartily wished they had had intimation

and assurance of such a change as I proposed, for they are now throughly sensible, all their money for their Sale, and as much again, cannot settle them in this condition, as I have offered to estate any one in besides, the hardships and hazards, they must necessarily go through, that begin a new settlement, and the losses and troubles they must sustain before its brought to any maturity or perfection. S^r in your two former I have desired your assistance, if in the course of your business you should meet with such an opportunity which the criticalness of these times gives me no occasion to despair of & your universal acquaintance gained by your skillful and active Dexterity in your publick concerns unites my wishes in some hope of success (the relations of those two Pennsylvanians I before mentioned assuring me divers were offering to sale & preparing for a Remove) which if it should happen would not only bring with it, that great satisfaction of enjoying my native country comforts & engagements, but a large opportunity to retaliate you many signal favours, which this Distance will allow me only the liberty of a gratefull and thankfull acknowledgment. S^r If understanding a mans self when present, to have been too troublesome, causes a sudden call of the spirits from the heart to the face, by its blushing shews a sence of its guilt, the same thing though absent, this abrupt conclusion will shew you has possess'd.

S^r Your Wff.

To Mr. Nich^s Hayward.

P. S.—Just as I am writing comes the commission of the Peace for our county, wherein I find your Brother Sam a Quorum Justice therein according to his worth & deserts, but with an assurance of his clerk's office.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)